Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—As against the advice of a Head of a Department, Government may have the advice of seven people; that is the advantage.

Presidents' remarks regarding produce adopted.

President.—Hon'ble Members,

In accordance with what I mentioned in my opening remarks, I wish to make a brief statement regarding the nature and extent of the work before us. Before doing so, I trust that Members will have no doubt in agreeing with my considered opinion that, in the record of the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee, we have a document of far-reaching importance containing as many as 204 recommendations formulated for the final orders of the Government. I need hardly point out that the Members of the Special Finance Committee have paid very close attention to the subject with which they were asked to deal. There was a very careful and patient investigation. There was a full discussion and close reasoning. No pains have been spared to present an illuminating and comprehensive report dealing with all the points in as clear a manner as possible. The thanks of the Government are in no small measure due to the Committee for their valuable service. The scope of the inquiry entrusted to the Special Finance Committee was practically very wide. They were in fact engaged in the overhauling of the whole system of the income and the expenditure of the State. They had to deal with the items of income under various heads, the items of expenditure in connection with the establishment, travelling allowance and contingencies general and special and to lay down a scheme or a scale in their own language which would meet the requirements of a progressive administration for 10 years or more. It was indeed a very difficult task they had to perform. The terms of the reference have been set forth in the forefront of the main report, and I would not refer to them now. There was the main report to which all the Members of the Special Finance Committee have affixed their signature. There were besides separate notes prepared by three of the Members and appended to the report, namely, the notes of the Diwan Peishkar, Mr. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar, Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja and Mr. C. A. Ouseph. Into the further details of the report it is not now my present purpose to enter.

Apart from the fact that the questions dealt with by the Members of the Special Finance Committee relate to matters of general public importance, there is, it will be noted, the special circumstance that it was at the instance of this Council that this Special Finance Committee was constituted. During the first Budget Session of the First Council, prominent mention was

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made about the question of expenditure in the State with particular reference to the pay of the officers at the top, their establishment, etc., and the suggestion was made that a committee might be appointed to go into the whole question and present a report for consideration of the Government. The Government acceded to the proposal of the Members of the Council and some of the Members of the First Council were appointed Members of the Special Finance Committee. As the Council was in some measure responsible for the origin of the report, I considered it desirable that an opportunity should be afforded to the Members for discussing the various recommendations of the Committee and to present their views for the consideration and help of the Government. There was no clear indication in the Council Law as to how a report of this nature is to be dealt with by the Government. There is, no doubt, the elaborate procedure prescribed in the Council Rules and Standing Orders as to how a report of the Select Committee is to be dealt with and such a procedure cannot be properly applied to an outside report. I gave very careful consideration to this question of procedure and sought for information from some authoritative sources. Two courses were found to be free from objection, and they are either by demanding a grant in the Council to be moved for the purpose of carrying into effect such recommendations of the Special Finance Committee as the Government finally approved or having resolutions tabled under the various recommendations and inviting discussion thereon. As the latter course involved considerable labour and loss of time, I thought it better to resort to the first course and, accordingly, the Government made a demand for 2 lakhs of rupees in the preliminary budget of 1104 so that all relevant questions may be considered in connection with the voting of grants in connection with the demand. Copies of the Special Finance Committee's report were sent to the Members before the Budget Session for their elucidation and for being prepared to raise the necessary points in the discussion. It was felt that the time for debate during the Budget Session in regard to this important matter was too short and the non-official Members pressed for a special sitting for the consideration of the Special Finance Committee report. I find that there are altogether 119 resolutions to be attended to at this sitting. I do not really know whether we will be able to get through them all during the 3 days of the present sitting. I believe that, if the Progressive Party is in a position to state what resolutions can be treated as Party resolutions, then, we need not spend much time in regard to that. As they are in overwhelming majority, such resolutions can be easily carried in the Council. Then we

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have to deal with other resolutions and a full discussion of the necessary points will be required. As regards the Government attitude, in respect of these resolutions, I wish to say that the Government is not now in a position to say whether they are either for accepting or for rejecting any of the resolutions. I make bold to say that the opinion of the non-officials expressed in this Council will be of considerable help (*hear, hear*) to the Government in passing satisfactory orders on the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee. In fact, the situation as I understand is shortly this. There are in the first instance the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee for the consideration of the Government and there would be the recommendations of this Council thereon and the two combined recommendations must, I think, be of great value for the Government in passing final orders on the report before the Council. I think I have stated all that I wished to say in connection with the work before us. We shall now proceed with the discussion of the resolutions tabled for the day.

Point of order regarding procedure adopted.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, I rise to a point of order. I shall explain myself. I think that the proper function of this Council is to discuss the report submitted by the Special Finance Committee to the Government and to pass the report with necessary amendments or to reject it. I regret to say that the procedure adopted by the Government from start to finish in this matter has not been quite what it should be. When we cried to appoint a committee for effecting retrenchment in the top-heavy service of the State, the Government appointed a committee, who has been asked to prepare or who has prepared unasked a sort of State Manual. Instead of suggesting retrenchments on the lines demanded by the Council, they have devoted themselves to write a historical review of the State, not only forgetting meanwhile the demand of the Council, but even going against it.

Be it as it may. For what purpose this Session of the Council has been summoned, it is impossible to make out. That summons is ingenuously worded, and says that we are to meet "in connection with the report of the Special Finance Committee". It is studiously silent as to what we are to do with the report, and what procedure we must adopt. Are we to praise it and retire? Or are we allowed to discuss it in the proper order of the headings given in the report? Or are we to discuss it piecemeal in the balloted order of the resolutions? And what about the various topics which are not within the purview of this Council?

I would strongly urge that, if there is any sense in our

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